



MASC

Monroe Actors Stage Company
www.masctheatre.org • (618) 939-SHOW (7496)

January 2010

MASC Musical 'PIPPIN' to open on Feb. 12, 2010

PIPPIN brings music and magic to the MASC stage

If you are like me, live theatre is already magical. It conjures up events from our memories, creates the illusion of a time and place beyond the horizon and takes us mysteriously into the imagination of the actors and artists who are performing. Our upcoming production of PIPPIN does that and more as director **Richard Hunsaker** is pulling out the stops by adding real prestidigitation to the show. Putting on a musical like PIPPIN requires the coordination of music, singing, dancing and acting to fully do justice to this uniquely American art form. But when you add magic, the actors and crew are really challenged. But they are all working hard in rehearsal and can't wait for you to see their finished product.

Mark Tullis, who has the role of "The Leading Player," carries the bulk of the magical performance. Richard has enlisted the help of professional magicians (**Steve Corbitt** and **Matthew Olson**) to provide training and some of the gadgetry used in the show. Of course we are sworn to secrecy about how the

tricks are done ;). The Leading Player uses magic to transform us into the coming of age story of PIPPIN, the eldest son of Charlemagne, king of the Holy Roman Empire.

Assisting Director Hunsaker is **Marcia Braswell**, who is providing the musical direction, vocal training and conducting the stage ensemble. **Chris Kernan** is choreographing the show and teaching the cast the dance steps. Assistant director and wife, **Pat Hunsaker**, and stage manager **Judy Brauchy** are providing the necessary support to bring the show together.

Composer and lyricist **Stephen Schwartz** wrote the lyrics and score for another magical Broadway musical "The Magic Show" starring Doug Henning in the 1980s. But Schwartz is best known for his award-winning "**Wicked**," the Broadway hit that tells the story of the Wizard of Oz from the witch's view point. "**Godspell**" was his first Broadway hit that has since become one of the most produced musicals in the country.

PIPPIN is the story of young Prince PIPPIN and his struggles to find meaning and purpose in his life, his "Corner of the Sky," that is worthy of the son of the most powerful man in the world ("Extraordinary!"). He tries war, women and politics until he realizes that maybe ordinary is noble too. We recommend this play for high school ages and up.

Cast members include **David Naber** as PIPPIN, the eldest son of King Charlemagne; **Tim Paeltz** as King Charlemagne; **Christine Miller** as PIPPIN's scheming mother, Fastrada; **Tammy Duensing** as his worldly grandmother, Berthe; **Nate Chilton** as his dimwitted brother, Lewis; **Luci Coats** as Catherine, his soul mate, and mother to Theo, played by 8-year-old **Seth Dillard**. The Band of Players who play multiple roles and function as the chorus are **Sam Baker**, **Dawn Schmid**, **Darrell Duensing**, **Megan Schmid**, **Joe Elterman**, **Lexi Krekorian**, **Chris Ceradsky**, **Doylene Daniels**, **Beverly Factor** and **Amber Dillard**.



SHOW TIMES

"PIPPIN"

Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Historic Capitol Theatre at the corner of Third and Main in beautiful downtown Waterloo, Illinois.

February 12, 13, 14 and 19, 20, 21.

Tickets: \$12 general admission
■ \$10 for seniors and students

To ensure a seat, purchase your tickets in advance online at www.masctheatre.org or in person at The Courthouse Café in Waterloo or Bon Vivant Wines in Columbia. You may also make reservations by calling our ticket line at **939-SHOW (7469)**.

We expect the musical to sell out some shows, so make your reservations early!

Reserved tickets must be claimed 15 minutes before show time. Unclaimed tickets will be sold at the door.

AUDITIONS . . .

“Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille”

Our next show, “Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille,” will have auditions on Sunday, February 14, and Monday, February 15, at the theatre at 7 p.m. each night. We need five men (one or two mid-30s; three 30s to 60s)



and two women (30s to 40s).

This play is a comedy first, but certainly has some more dramatic moments. The characters run the gamut from average Joe to “what rock did he crawl out of.” But then, how would you behave if you thought tomorrow might not be there?

John Campbell is directing and the show will rehearse three nights per week. Performance dates are April 16, 17, 18 and 23, 24, 25. Please feel free to come watch auditions if you are not quite sure if you are ready to take the stage. It’s a lot of fun and everyone is welcome.

Auditions consist of reading from the script with others on stage. So no preparation is necessary. Hope to see some familiar faces. So, come on down on the Sunday or Monday after PIPPIN opens.

MASC introduces new Board members

The MASC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that **Debbie Ruggeri** and **Aaron Dilliard** have agreed to accept positions on the Board of Directors.

Aaron, a past board member, is very active in the technical aspect of play production and in helping us maintain and enhance our theatre facility. Aaron is leading the new wall carpet project and was the force behind the removal of the infamous step at the back of the theatre.

Debbie is a familiar face in Waterloo as Director of the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce. We are very grateful to have her lend her organization talents and her community contacts to help guide us into the future.

About those 50-50 drawings . . .

50/50 proceeds tremendous success! Old burlap curtains replaced with new carpeted walls.

Well, it’s been a few years of discussions and fundraising, but the Board of Directors has given the go-ahead to replace the old dusty side curtains of the theatre with a new sound absorptive wall carpet.

If all goes according to plan, the wall carpet will be in place when you come to see PIPPIN. Our 50/50 drawings have been very successful and a popular addition to our theatre experience. We thank our patrons for your continued support.

The carpeting is our single biggest expenditure to date, but it is rewarding to be able to continue with our enhancements to your theatre experience.

MASC wins \$1,000 Fox Grant to grow young people’s interest in theatre

For the second year in a row, MASC has received a Fox Theatrical Grant, thanks to grant writer **Pat Hunsaker**. Last season, with the help from the grant, we were able to produce a special school-time production of **The Diary of Anne Frank** for our area middle-schoolers. Bringing young people into the theatre is a priority for MASC and this grant helps us achieve our goal.

MASC will use this grant to promote and encourage attendance of our younger patrons. Stages for Students is our program that is made possible by the Fox Grant. Under this program, we will be inviting area high school students to attend **PIPPIN** by opening our final dress rehearsal to the area students.

Bring a Student

MASC is extending this invitation to our patrons also. If you invite or bring a **high school** student to the show we will allow free admission for the **student**. There is a limited number of free seats available from the Fox Grant, but if you call our ticket line at (618) 939 SHOW(7469) and let us know, we will reserve a seat for your **high school** student. High school-age or older for this show is recommended.